

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Brandy Padilla Diaz, I am 32 years old and I live in East Hartford. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

We support this bill because it is a step forward but I am going to share my story so you know that this law would still leave me without access to health insurance.

Health insurance is very important for all immigrant families. I have respiratory problems. It's very difficult because there have been times when I had asthma attacks and many people have told me to go to the emergency room, but how can I go if the costs are very expensive?

I have a young son and am currently pregnant. I would like to see a doctor but with our minimum wage salary we don't have enough to pay. Sometimes we only have enough to pay for rent and food.

I support **HB 6616** and I hope that this committee supports it to expand HUSKY health insurance to our immigrant communities. **Our work doesn't stop with the expansion of HUSKY to age 26;** we need to expand access to all immigrants regardless of their age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable work force and growth, all undocumented folks should be guaranteed access to health coverage.

Thank you for your time,  
*Brandy Padilla Diaz*